1681.

Astrological OBSERVATIONS AND PREDICTIONS,

For the Year of our Lord 1681.

WHEREIN

Is briefly shewn the Significations of the late *COMET*, which was seen in *December* last, 1680. And what is signified by the Eclipses and positions of the Planets, in the Figures of the four Solar Ingresses, *&c.*

AND

What sorrowful Times are approaching to the World, and what eminent Changes are like to happen in most Countries (from the Influences of the three Conjunctions of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* in the fiery Trigon, in 1682. and 1683.)

ALSO

MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS.

For every Month this present Year.

Briefly containing the most Remarkable Events that are likely to happen in some eminent Citties in *ENGLAND*, and in our Neighbouring Nations.

By *John Silvester*.

LONDON, Printed for the Author, 1681.

TO THE READER.

I desire the Reader to take Notice, that my Astrological Observations *were by me, and many Friends of mine, expected to have been Printed, in an* Almanack *of mine, which being sent to* London, *I was unkindly dealt with, by some* Stationer *or* Printer, *by whom my Expectation was frustrated, and my Friends deceived, and my* Almanack *hindred from coming to the* Press; *and not only so, but some part of my* Work *was pick't out, and unkindly Printed and Published, in an* Almanack, *set forth in the Name of* Richard Saunders: *I know not why any should be so spiteful to me (in my absence from* London*) unless any were so, because I laid open the Dangers of the Times, for the good and Preservation of our King and Kingdom: I suppose I have already, and shall, or rather should for the future, shoot as near to the Mark, as most more Eminent Artists: And many of my Friends and Acquaintance*

quaintance know, that I Wrote of the late great PLOT, *and* Treacherous Design, *almost in plain Terms; and also of many eminent Matters, the next year following, which so happened accordingly: and having been hitherto very unkindly dealt with, and for the sakes of many of my Friends, that expected to have seen my Work Published; I thought it not amiss to accept of this Opportunity to publish my* Astrological Observations, *alone by it self, hoping it will be accepted, not only in the City of* Bristol, *but also in many other respective places in* England.

Bristol *the 22th of* December. 1680. } John Silvester.

Astrological OBSERVATIONS

For the Year 1681.

Of the Comet *that was seen in* December *last.*

THIS Comet (when I first saw it) seemed to shew it self in the beginning of the second Face of Capricorn, near the Sun and the Planet Mercury, and near the opposite place of Saturn, and in that part of Heaven, called the House of War: but it was reported, That its Tayl was seen about a Fortnight before; if so, it may very well be supposed that it had its first beginning or Birth in the fiery sign Sagitarius, because of its swift motion. The Tayl of it, when I first saw it, was very long, reaching about sixty Degrees and pointing Eastwardly. The Star or Comet it self was very small, seeming about the bigness of a fixed Star of the fourth Magnitude, or the Planet Mercury. The colour and complexion of it, I could not discern then, because of the Mists or thickness of the Air, but since it seemed to be rather pale than fiery or otherwise, that I rather judge it to be Saturnine, or more of the nature of Saturn, than any other Planet, and so more fit to cause the more evil effects.

If it first began in Sagitary (as probably it might) a sign of the fiery Triplicity, it signifies terrible Warrs, fiery and bloody Actions, and the motion of great Armies will begin those sad times that are approaching, and Denotes the suppression of Great and Noble Men, Wise and Learned Men, and great Students; and this the rather, because it appeared so near the Sun, and the Planet Mercury. And whereas it chiefly first shewed it self to us, in that part of Heaven called the House of War, it denotes the more terrible warrs and slaughters of great multitudes, but whereas it first chiefly shewed it self to us in Capricorn, it is not unlikely, but it will not only run through Aquary, but also through Pisces (and Aries; the Ascendant of *England* and *France*,) and so through a Sign of every Triplicity, and of the nature of every Element. If it so happen, it encrea-

ses the Miseries that are coming amongst us : For when a Comet appears in an Earthy Sign, it denotes Barrenness through drought ; in watery Signs dreught, through abundance of Rain; in airy signs it denotes the Pestilence, Seditions and mighty high Winds; In Fiery Signs, terrible Warrs and Slaughters : and it is very likely, that before it be extinguished , it will at least runthrough a Sign of every Trigon, because of its swift motion (which I judge cannot be less than 4 or 5 Degrees in a day) but so far as it hath already run, it certainly informs us of great Wars, Slaughters, the Captivity or Death of Nobles and Great Persons, and Wise men, and great Students, and persecutions about Religion. (thus chiefly if it began in Sagitary, (as it is very probable it did) and further Scarcity, Robberies, the Pestilence, and great Mortality, and many Calamities, that are approacing to Visit the Nations: all its significations are not as yet fully known. Farther, this being a Comet of a very swift Motion, it denotes forreign Wars, and one Nation invading another : for when a Comet is immoveable, it rather signifies Seditions : and whereas it hath already shewed it self in the Houses of War and Death, it the more confirms the aforesaid Judgment, That Wars and a great Slaughter is near and approaching : It may before it be extinguished, yet appear in several other Houses, partly because of its swift motion, and partly because it is likely to continue a great while, because of the strong appearance as yet of its Rays and Beams by which a conjecture may be given, that it may appear as yet to us the space of two Months, or till the latter end of *February*: For, as the Ancients have Observed, some Comets have appeared almost three Months, which they count is the longest time any Comet can appear. A small Comet, say Authors, will be soon extinguisht, because the matter whereof it is made, will be soon burnt, unless it be fed with new exhalations, as we know not but this may.

Comets chiefly shew their effects to those parts to which they send out their Beams or Rays, and in those Regions where they are seen ; but more chiefly to those places that are subject to the Sign or Signs wherein they appear. By the first Rule, it hath relation to *England*, and if it Transit the Sign Aries, as its likely to do, then it adds to our Miseries, that it may be said, Wo to *England*, *France*, and many other Regions, Cities and places of the Earth, and as it hath already appeared in Capricorn, the Ascendant of the City of *Oxford*, it may be feared that City will be greatly in danger of the Pestilence, and other Miseries ; and the worse, because Saturn is now in the opposite Sign ; and if Capricorn belongs to *Oxford*, may not the Planet Mercury therein posited, represent the great

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Auguſts Obſervations.

GREAT Melancholy, trouble and diſcontent poſſeſſeth many Hearts; its probable ſome religious Controverſy may happen in the City of *Oxford*, more than many other places: Magiſtrates there, and in other places reſolute to diſturb ſome meeting or religious profeſſors: variances among Rulers and Men of Power, and among Magiſtrates, and probably in *Briſtol*: abundance of people dye this Month, Note on the 5th. day the Planet Saturn goes out of Cancer, into the fiery ſigh Leo, about which time we may expect to ſee ſome unuſual ſights and Apparitions in the Air, which uſually happen when he goes from one ſign to another.

Septembers Obſervations.

LET *Briſtol* beware of Fire and all other miſchiefs, and ſly doings: The Magiſtrates thereof I doubt will ſome way be ſlily affronted, and vext by ſome ſly Enemies there, that probably may cauſe Diviſions and Controverſies amongſt them. The ſecond day of this Month, at three in the morning, the Sun will ſuffer an Eclipſe, which denotes the Death of ſome great and very wiſe perſon or perſons is approaching, and in a few Months will end this Life: Let *London* alſo beware, for ſome Plot or miſchievous Deſigns, may now be feared; Rulers of Nations affronted by ſome ſlily, cauſing much Variance and Diviſions amongſt them. Many are now Impriſoned, a very ſickly Seaſon, abundance dye.

Octobers Obſervations.

SLY Actions and ſly Enemies are ſtill to be feared, cauſing much trouble and vexations: variances amongſt high and low: preparations for War againſt the next year: abundance dye.

Novembers Obſervations.

MAgiſtrates Oppreſs ſome meetings or perſons profeſſing Religion: beware of your Servants, for they will be very much inclined to cheat their Maſters, now more than at other times: often variances between them: and Servants will be in danger of the Cudgel.

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Decembers Observations.

VEry notable Contentions and Controversies amongst Kings, Princes, Nobles and Rulers of Nations and Kingdoms, some more than ordinary stir; I wish there may not happen any Rebellion this Month against National Supreme Powers; God preserve the Magistrates of the City of *Bristol* in Peace and Unity this Month: great robberies on the Land and at Sea: take Notice of the variances and evill events that happen, about the 19 day of this Month; we cannot be too wary of the bloody-minded Papists. Thus the year for the most part is tending to great contentions or Wars, or preparations against the next year; for without doubt woful times are approaching to the Earths Inhabitants, with Plagues, Calamities, and great and remarkable Changes, in many or most Nations and Kingdoms in the World.

FINIS.

POSTSCRIPT.

SInce my Observations were sent to the Press, before they were Published, I thought it the more satisfactory to inform the Reader, that the Comet is now (to our sorrow) weakly appearing in ♈, the Ascendant of *England*, (and *France*) therefore it may the more be feared that *Englands* trouble and affliction is approaching; ♈ is a fiery Sign, and a Comet in a fiery Sign is the more apt to cause the Nations (subject to it) to be concerned with Wars: it is now appearing very weakly, but if it continue about a month longer (or till about the 10*th*. day of *February*, of which now there is some doubt) it is probable by that time it will Transite ♉, ♊, ♋ and ♌, (*viz*. the Ascendants of *Ireland*, *London*, *Scotland* (*Holland* and *Bristol*,) but it will signifie the less evil to those places, because it grows weaker and weaker, but it wofully threatens those Nations, Cities, Towns, Villages, Places and Persons that are under the Signs ♑ and ♐, because it not only appeared powerful therein, but the Infortunes afflicted those Signs then by Opposition: many places in *England* may be under ♑ and ♐, though we have not the knowledge thereof from the experiences of antient Astrologers: Lastly, whereas this Comet hath been already in a Sign of every Triplicity, by reason of its swift motion it denotes the more varieties of evils, for a Comet in a Fiery Sign hath more power to cause Wars than in another Sign, and in an Earthy Sign, most power to cause Barrenness and Unfruitfulness than in another Sign. In short, I fear a besome of Destruction will shortly follow in many Nations, partly by the Pestilence, and partly by War, if not also by a Famine or great scarcity, if humility of heart and speedy Repentance do not either divert it, or preserve us from it, *Libera nos Domine si sancta sit tua voluntas.*

Swift Comets and Saturnine signify
Wars, Plague, Destruction, Woes and Scarcity:
Th'infected Air oft kills the Fowls that fly,
The Earths and Waters, Animals will dye.
Tho' man knows part, th'Omniscient God knows all
Those sad Contingents, that will man befall:
Oh God, thou giv'st us some foresight, that we
With speed repent, and turn from Sin to Thee.
Effects below, proceed from Cause above,
From Stars that by thy Blessed Order move,
From Comets and strange Visions in the Air,
Which we Spectators on the Earth admire.

Bristol the 8*th*. of *January*, 1680.

John Silvester.